

KANEGASAKI SISTER CITY COMMITTEE
BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES
April 14, 2010
4 PM Senior Center Alice Dowd Lounge

Members Present: Jule Dupre, Nancy Bess, Stephanie Joyce , Denise Boyd, Yuko Takahashi, Kathy Woods Masalski, Amy Springer, Aaron Kropf, Nancy Pagano (Town Liaison)

Others: Shinobu Turner (Guest who worked on a Sister City Committee in Japan and is a tutor at the Amherst Middle School currently.), Aaron Hayden

Members Absent: Byron Koh, Florence Boynton, Helen MacMellon, Bill Hutchinson

Secretary's Report: Accepted as read.

Treasurer's Report: Accepted as presented. Florence's report was distributed to all. The current balance is \$1,519.13. Kathy Woods Masalski asked for estimates or receipts for costs related to the Kanegasaki visit incurred by Committee members. Nancy Pagano and Denise Boyd submitted same. Jule Dupre stated that since you can't put a figure on friendship, she has found it difficult to estimate. Kathy asked that she reconsider, suggesting that as a Town Committee, we ought to keep records of activities related to our charge.

Election of New KSCC Chair: Amy Springer was nominated as chair without objection by the committee members present. It was assumed or hoped by the Committee that Byron Koh would stay on as secretary and Florence Boynton would remain as treasurer. It was suggested that Byron Koh should write a letter of introduction on behalf of Amy so that the officials in Kanegasaki would understand that this is a smooth transition. Byron will also be asked to write a letter of introduction for Aaron Kropf who will visit Japan this summer during which he would like to spend time in Kanegasaki.

Discussion commenced on whether there should be an annual renewal of the chair and other officers. Many members felt that it was important to the Committee and for relations with Kanegasaki for officers to make a long term commitment, but that it might make sense to have an "annual" meeting in May to reaffirm these officers.

Amy commented that one thing she would like to see in the coming months was some specific long and short-term goals for the Committee. Articulating such goals will enable the committee to list specific goals when fundraising, which generally is more successful for raising money. Nancy Bess commented that this is a good idea as the goals are not what they were previously. It also would enable us to think about what kind of expertise would be valuable to have on the Committee, so that we could try to recruit individuals with such expertise to fill the many vacant spots on the Committee.

Strategies for Building Up "Friends" Mailing List: Old lists should be checked and all names sent to Aaron Hayden. Denise contributed names of students and their families who went to Japan or hosted students. Kathy and Nancy P. also added names.

Miyuki Chiba Update: Nancy P showed a photo of Yui, Miyuki's baby daughter. Miyuki is on leave for a year, however she will keep working as a contact person between Kanegasaki and the KSCC.

Report on Kanegasaki Student Visit:

So very many to thank: Japanese students and chaperones, as well as Denise, Florence and Nancy P., really enjoyed the tour of Amherst using the senior center's van. Elms College Director of Public Safety Michael Sullivan (formerly a Captain in the Amherst Police Department) and DPW worker Tim Banks graciously served as volunteer tour guide and volunteer driver—a big thank you to them. Denise and the Committee also thanked Kathy Woods Masalski and the Five College Center for East Asian Studies for funding a lovely dinner at Bertucci's for the chaperones on Wednesday, their first night in Amherst. Also many thanks were given to Jule and Carl Dupre for hosting a wonderful dinner in their home Thursday. This was a very special evening highlighted by an impromptu piano concert by Kanegasaki Tour Conductor, Matsushita Junko. Rave reviews for the Hitchcock Center visit and the concert Ann White put on was amazing. Yuko's students were

outgoing and friendly and added so much to the Japanese-American connection through their interactions.

Denise mentioned an idea for the middle school students' visit next year. She wants to try to organize an activity early in the trip, perhaps the first morning after they arrive, to be some kind of icebreaker, and get American and Japanese students interacting with each other early on since they have such a short time. She suggested perhaps getting the Amherst students to bring questions to ask the guests as a way of having the American students prepare a little more the visit. She also expressed an interest in reaching out to the Japanese community a little more prior to these visits. Perhaps the 'Round the World Women could be contacted. Stephanie talked about the parallel characteristics of the Doshisha/Wildwood visit and which activities worked. Denise is looking forward to changes for next year's visit. Idea: Would it possible for the Japanese students and host family students to be pen pals in advance of meeting?

Old Business/Archives

Kathy Woods Masalski reported that now that we have a Committee Chair, the Committee can move forward with plans to "deed" Committee records to the Jones Library. In reply to Aaron Kropf's question, she stated that the material will be available to the public and subject to the discretion of the Library. She distributed a draft list of categories and asked members to consider them for discussion at a future meeting.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, May 12th, 4 PM in the Alice Dowd Lounge of the Senior Center in Bangs.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 5:05 PM.

Respectfully submitted: Nancy Pagano, Acting Secretary in Byron's absence. Contributions from Amy Springer, Jule Dupre and Kathy Woods Masalski